

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CSU DECISION TO FORM INDEPENDENT BUNDESTAG "FRAKTION"

REF: MUNICH 2848

1. INTRODUCTION: IN VIEW OF FAR-REACHING SIGNIFICANCE FOR FRG POLITICS OF CSU DECISION TO FORM INDEPENDENT "FRAKTION" IN 8TH FRG BUNDESTAG, CONGEN CONSIDERS IT USEFUL TO PROVIDE TOPICAL SUMMARY (SEE BELOW) OF STATEMENTS WHICH DR. FRIEDRICH ZIMMERMANN, CHAIRMAN OF NEW CSU "FRAKTION," AND FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS, CSU CHAIRMAN, MADE TO PRESS FOLLOWING CLOSED MEETING (KLAUSURTAGUNG) AT CSU'S HANS SEIDEL STIFTUNG NOVEMBER 19. CONGEN'S INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF DECISION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOLLOWS VIA SEPTEL.

2. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CSU VOTE. ZIMMERMANN INDICATED THAT VOTE ON ISSUE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF SEPARATE "FRAKTION" DID NOT RPT NOT REQUIRE A SPECIAL MOTION. EACH TIME A NEW BUNDESTAG CONVENES, CSU DEPUTIES ARE REQUIRED, SAID ZIMMERMANN, TO
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VOTE ON WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE IN JOINT "FRAKTION" WITH

CDU. PRESENT VOTE WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY SECRET BALLOT AFTER 45 OF THE 50 DEPUTIES PRESENT TOOK PART IN THE DISCUSSION.

3. ADVANTAGES FOR CSU. ZIMMERMANN CLAIMED DECISION HAD FOLLOWING ADVANTAGES FOR CSU: (A) PARTY NOW HAS FIRMER BASIS OF INDEPENDENCE; (B) PARTY WILL HAVE RIGHT TO HAVE ITS OWN PRINCIPAL SPEAKERS IN BUNDESTAG DEBATES AND WILL NO LONGER HAVE TO SHARE SPEAKER ASSIGNMENTS WITH CDU (ZIMMERMANN CLAIMED THIS MEANS UNION PARTIES WILL NOW HAVE MORE DEBATE TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF THEIR VIEWS); (C) PARTY WILL BE ENTITLED TO HAVE ITS OWN MEMBERS ON BUNDESTAG COMMITTEES AND TO DESIGNATE APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN; (D) UNION PARTIES WILL NOW HAVE TOTAL OF THREE BUNDESTAG VICE PRESIDENTS (TWO DCU AND ONE CSU) AND THUS HAVE SAME NUMBER OF BUNDESTAG PRAESIDIUM MEMBERS AS COALITION PARTIES. ZIMMERMANN DID NOT RPT NOT DWELL ON FACT THAT BUNDESTAG PRESIDENT WILL NOW COME FROM SPD RATHER THAN CDU/CSU. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT SEPARATE "FRAKTION" MEANS INDIVIDUAL CSU DEPUTIES WILL HAVE TO WORK HARDER BECAUSE THEY WILL PREPARE FOR DEBATES SEPARATELY FROM CDU AND RELY ON THEIR OWN REPRESENTATIVES IN ALL COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES.

4. CONSULTATIONS WITH CDU. ZIMMERMANN STATED THAT CDU HAD NO RPT NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF CSU'S DECISION TO FORM SEPARATE "FRAKTION." STRAUSS SAID HE COULD NOT RPT NOT TELL KOHL ANYTHING IN ADVANCE BECAUSE HE DID NOT RPT NOT KNOW VOTE WOULD TURN OUT THIS WAY. STRAUSS SAID HE HAD TOLD KOHL THAT "OUR POLITICS WILL BE ON THE SIDE OF THE CDU."

5. CALL FOR A COORDINATING BODY. ZIMMERMANN STATED THAT CSU WOULD PROPOSE TO CDU CREATION OF A COORDINATING "BODY" (GREMIUM) WHICH WOULD SERVE AS "ROOF" OVER BOTH PARTIES.

6. IMPLICATION FOR CDU-CSU RELATIONS. STRAUSS DECLARED FLATLY THERE IS NO RPT NO WAY CSU WOULD ENTER INTO A CABINET WITHOUT THE CDU. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION STRAUSS SAID DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CDU AND CSU ARE CERTAINLY UNCLASSIFIED

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NO GREATER AND IN FACT "CONSIDERABLY LESS" THAN BETWEEN SPD AND FDP.

7. KOHL'S FUTURE. ASKED WHETHER KOHL WOULD STILL GO TO BONN, STRAUSS SAID HE HAD "NO KNOWLEDGE THAT KOHL HAD MADE THIS (JOINT "FRAKTION") A CONDITION" (FOR GOING).

8. BUNDESRAT. STRAUSS INDICATED CSU DECISION WOULD

HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO RPT NO INFLUENCE ON BUNDESRAT.

9. FOURTH PARTY. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS, STRAUSS MADE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ABOUT POSSIBLE CSU 4TH PARTY MOVEMENT: (A) DECISION IS NOT RPT OT HIS TO MAKE (N.B. STRAUSS PRESUMABLY MEANT THAT SUCH DECISION (S) WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE BY SCU LAND EXECUTIVE COMMITEE); (B) IF ESTAZLISHMENT OF A 4TH PARTY WOULD LEAD TO SPAT BE-TWEEN CDU AND CSU, IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE DESIRABLE; (C) THE PRESENT FRG PARTY LANDSCAPE IS "IMPROPERLY ARRANGED" (FALSCH STRUKTUIERT), AS STRAUSS HAS BEEN SAYING FOR 10 YEARS, AND BECAUSE OF THIS CDU AND CSU SEEM PREVENTED FROM WINNING BUNDESTAG MAJORITY.BETTS

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